



**County Administrative Office**  
**Governmental & Legislative Affairs**

**Josh Candelaria**  
Director

February 27, 2017

The Honorable David Chiu  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, CA 94249

**Re: AB 74 - (Chiu) - As Introduced on December 16, 2016 - SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblyman Chiu:

The County of San Bernardino is pleased to support AB 74, which would require the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), in coordination with the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), to establish the Housing for a Healthy California Program (HHCP). The HHCP would allow a county or region to use grant awards for interim housing and long-term rental assistance for periods up to five years.

DHCS acknowledged decades of research demonstrating supportive housing decreases Medicaid costs among homeless beneficiaries and therefore proposed using Medi-Cal to fund rental assistance with services. Though the Federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) did not approve using federal Medicaid funds for rental assistance, CMS did approve a final 1115 Medicaid Waiver that includes the California Whole Person Care pilot program. The pilot allows counties to match federal funds to pay for care management supports, and services helping people find housing and achieve housing stability. DHCS is also working to implement the Health Homes Program which will serve eligible Medi-Cal beneficiaries with multiple chronic conditions who are frequent utilizers and may benefit from enhanced care management and coordination.

Though Whole Person Care pilots and the Health Homes Program allow for funding through Medi-Cal for services in supportive housing, services alone will not reduce Medi-Cal spending on homeless beneficiaries unless service providers are able to link participants to rental subsidies as a way for these beneficiaries to afford a decent place to live. AB 74 would complete the "Whole Person Care" nature of the 1115 pilot by funding rental assistance grants tied to services dollars, and fostering federal-state-county partnerships to end homelessness.

Californians experiencing homelessness incur disproportionate healthcare costs, have poor health outcomes and are at significant risk for early mortality. AB 74 is a one-time investment that would decrease Medi-Cal costs, produce dramatic improvements in clinical outcomes, and reduce homelessness.

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For these reasons, the County of San Bernardino is pleased to support AB 74. If you have any questions regarding the County's position, please do not hesitate to contact Josh Candelaria, Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs at (909) 387-4821 or [jcandelaria@sbcounty.gov](mailto:jcandelaria@sbcounty.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Lovingood". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" being more legible than the last name "Lovingood".

Robert Lovingood  
First District Supervisor  
Chairman, San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors

c: San Bernardino County Legislative Delegation